23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Great Russia RF1

The Russian SFSR includes the entire polar belt of the USSR, with the Arctic islands of Franz-Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya, Severnaya Zemlya (North Land), the New Siberian and Vrangel' (Wrangel) islands, and so forth. Along the shores of the Arctic seas lies the tundra zone, which was settled by the Russians more than 700 years ago in its western (European) section, but only in recent years in its eastern (Asiatic) section. The taiga, in the south, occupies the major portion of the territory of the republic. Consisting largely of evergreens, the forest belt also has deciduous-tree zones, particularly in the European part. Farther south lies the black-earth belt, at first covered with a wooded steppe vegetation, but gradually changing into the steppe proper. The extreme south is a dry steppe, in which chestnut soils predominate; these are, however, only slightly inferior to the black earth with respect to fertility. Subtropical vegetation occurs only on the southern shore of the Crimea and along the Black Sea littoral of the Caucasus.

Because of its extensive coal and petroleum resources, the Russian SFSR is best supplied with power-producing minerals. Two of the largest coal basins of the world lie within the confines of the Asiatic portion of the republic: the Kuznetsk Basin, along the upper Tom' River, between the Salair Ridge and the Kuznetsk Ala-Tau, and the Tunguska Basin (as yet unexploited), along the lower Yenisey River, largely north of the Lower Tunguska, its right affluent. Lesser basins in Siberia are near Minusinsk and Cheremkhovo and along the Bureya River, while the Moscow and Vorkuta basins are most important in the European part. The Russian SFSR also includes the eastern section of the Donets Basin, the major portion of which lies within the Ukrainian SSR. An important petroleum zone extends throughout the European part of the Russian SFSR, beginning on the Arctic Circle in the Pechora River basin, along the western slopes of the Urals, past Molotov and Ufa, widening westward to the middle Volga in the area of Kuybyshev and Syzran', passing through the Gur'yev-Emba area of the Kazakh SSR, and reappearing north of the Greater Caucasus range at Makhachkala, Groznyy, and Maykop. In the very center of the European section of the Russian SFSR lies about one-half of the world's reserves of iron ore. Here more than 200 billion tons of low-grade ore lie buried in the Central Russian upland, east and southeast of Kursk, in the so-called Kursk magnetic anomaly. Other iron deposits occur in the Kola Peninsula, near Kerch' in the Crimea, in the Urals, and in Siberia.

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Great Russia RFL

SU 135 GR 135

Other important mineral resources are phosphorite and apatite deposits in the Kola Peninsula and along the Vyatka-Kama divide, oil shale in the Volga Region and Leningrad Oblast, natural gas near Saratov, peat and building materials in many sections of the European part of the Russian SFSR. In the Urals, in addition to petroleum and coal, potash, salt, and copper are found on the western slopes, iron, nickel, chrome, and platinum in the central ranges, and magnetite iron ore, copper, zinc, bauxite, and precious stones on the eastern slopes. In addition to coal, gold abounds in the Asiatic portion, in the Lena River basin and along the Kolyma River, and there are important tin deposits in Eastern Siberia, as well as lead, silver, and graphite.

SU 161 GR 161

The population of the Russian SFSR amounts to about 111 millions. The greatest population density occurs in the black-earth belt of the European section and in the regions of century-old settlement, including the watershed between the upper Volga and the Oka, the cradle of the Muscovite state, and the districts adjoining the northwestern lakes, Il'men' and Peipus (Chudskoye), and the upper course and left affluents of the Dnieper River. In these areas the concentration reaches 125 to 150 per square mile and as much as 250 and higher in the Moscow area. In the black-earth region of Siberia the density decreases to 60–90 persons per square mile. North of this belt the population rapidly decreases to 10–25 per square mile in the European North and as little as one person for every 2 square miles in the taiga of Siberia. Only in the valleys of the northern rivers (Northern Dvina, Pechora, Ob', Yenisey, Lena, with the Aldan and the Vilyuy, Yana, Indigirka, and Kolyma) does the population density rise to about 25 per square mile. The urban population is distributed mainly throughout the European part of the Russian SFSR: between the Volga and the Oka rivers, on the Baltic Sea and the Volga, and in the industrial Urals. The Siberian cities extend along the Trans-Siberian Railroad and lie usually at its intersection with the principal Siberian rivers. A great urban concentration has taken place in connection with the industrial development of the Kuznetsk Basin.

SU 162 GR 162

The Russians are the basic national element of the Russian SFSR and number about three fourths of the total population. They live principally in the black-earth belt, mixed forest, and taiga of the European section. The great number of minorities are found mainly along the middle Volga, on the western slopes of the Urals, on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus, and in the mountainous sections of Western